

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendments in this paper, claims 1-5, 12-34 and 47-52 will be pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 5, 12, 27 and 48 are herein amended. Claims 6-11 and 35-46 are herein canceled. No new matter is entered. It is respectfully submitted that this paper is fully responsive to the Office action mailed on June 24, 2010.

Applicants thank the examiner for considering claims 13-34, 50 and 51 to be allowable.

Specification:

Applicants have amended the specification to correct minor grammatical errors.

On the Merits

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 1 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 5,892,846 to *Davis* and EP 0670555 to *Nagasaki et al.*

Independent Claim 1:

Independent claim 1 recites:

wherein the dot pattern forms a lattice block by a horizontal line composed of successive equally spaced dots and a vertical line extending vertically from the horizontal line, the lattice block has a lattice area surrounded by lattice points, and an information dot that defines data is generated by the algorithm and arranged within the lattice area.

The description “by a horizontal line composed of successive equally spaced dots and a vertical line extending vertically from the horizontal line” is based on the description of lines 2 to 3 on page 30 of English specification “first, a line composed by successive equally spaced dots 5 is extracted” and lines 7 to 9 on page 30 “next, one extracted line is assumed as a horizontal line. This horizontal line is used as a basis to extract a line which extends vertically from the horizontal line,” for example.

The description “forms a lattice block ... the lattice block has a lattice area surrounded by lattice dots” is based on the description of lines 19 to 25 on page 78 of the English specification and figures 5 to 8. It should be noted that “four corners of this lattice block” is clerical error in the specification and should be “four corners of lattice area.” The description “an information dot that defines data is generated by the algorithm and arranged within the lattice area” is based on the description of lines 11 to 13 on page 79 of the English specification.

The newly added features are not described or suggested at all in the cited documents of *Davis* or *Nagasaki et al.*, and cannot be devised by referring to other prior art. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 5:

As independent claim 5 contains similar features to those discussed above regarding independent claim 1, please see the arguments above.

Independent Claim 12:

As independent claim 12 contains similar features to those discussed above regarding independent claim 1, please see the arguments above.

Independent Claim 47:

As independent claim 47 contains similar features to those discussed above regarding independent claim 1, please see the arguments above.

New Dependent Claim 52:

Dependent claim 52 recites:

the scanner extracts the horizontal line and the vertical line and scans the dot defined in the lattice area.

The feature of “the scanner extracts the horizontal line and the vertical line” is based on the description of lines 7 to 9 on page 30 of English specification “This horizontal line is used as a basis to extract a line which extends vertically from the horizontal line.” The description “scans the dot defined in the lattice area” is based on the description of lines 11 to 13 on page 79 of the English specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that the features of claim 52 are not disclosed or rendered obvious by the cited art.

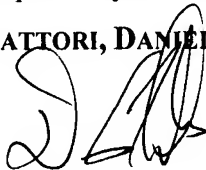
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hubbs', is written over the printed name of the attorney.

Dennis M. Hubbs

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 59,145

Telephone: (202) 822-1100

Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

DMH/rse